

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, AS

SUBJECT:REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ANTI-CANCER DRUG

REF: CANBERRA 01402

-- CANBERRA 01120

1. THIS IS IN REPLY TO YOUR RECENT INQUIRY ABOUT THE VACCINE DEVELOPED AND USED IN JAPAN BY DR. CHISATO MARUYAMA. WE HAVE READ THE ARTICLES RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN THE 'NATIONAL ENQUIROR' AND OTHER NEWSPAPERS AND AGREE THAT SUCH REPORTS DESERVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

2. YOU CAN BE CERTAIN THAT THE WORK IN JAPAN IS BEING WATCHED CLOSELY. REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND FROM THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE HAVE MADE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF DR. MARUYAMA'S VACCINE. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE VACCINE IS STILL EXPERIMENTAL AND ITS EFFICACY AGAINST CANCER HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED BY OTHER INVESTIGATORS.

3. DR. MARUYAMA'S VACCINE IS A DERIVATIVE OF A TUBERCULOSIS ORGANISM AND WAS DEVELOPED BY HIM AT THE NIPPON MEDICAL SCHOOL. IT WAS ORIGINALLY USED FOR TREATING TUBERCULOSIS AND LEPROSY. DR. MARUYAMA RECENTLY ANNOUNCED

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THAT, WHEN INJECTED UNDER THE SKIN, THE VACCINE IS ALSO

EFFECTIVE AGAINST CERTAIN FORMS OF CANCER. HE HAS SAID

THAT HE IS READY TO PROVIDE OTHER MEDICAL DOCTORS WITH THE VACCINE IN EXCHANGE FOR REPORTS ON RESULTS OF ANY TESTS THAT THEY CONDUCT.

4. DESPITE DR. MARUYAMA'S CLAIMS, TESTS OF THE VACCINE IN ANIMALS CONDUCTED BY OTHER SCIENTISTS IN JAPAN (DR. MIZUNO OF TOKYO UNIV., DR. FURUE OF THE CANCER RESEARCH INST. AND OTHERS) AS WELL AS TESTS IN CANCER PATIENTS HAVE INDICATED THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN EFFECTIVE AGAINST CANCER. ACCORDING TO SCIENTISTS CONCERNED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF IMMUNOTHERAPY IN JAPAN, THE VACCINE HAS NOT BEEN SCIENTIFICALLY ACCEPTED IN JAPAN; IT IS BEING USED AS A 'PRIVATE DRUG' BY DR. MARUYAMA FOR CLINICAL TESTS. WHILE DR. MARUYAMA HIMSELF IS A RESPECTED SCIENTIST, AS INDICATED BY THE FACT THAT HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN RECOMMENDED TO BECOME THE PRESIDENT OF THE NIPPON SCHOOL, HIS VACCINE HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY OTHER SCIENTISTS.

5. DR. MARUYAMA'S VACCINE MAY BE USED IN THE U.S. ON AN INVESTIGATIONAL BASIS ONLY. AN ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR CLINICAL INVESTIGATOR WISHING TO IMPORT HIS DRUG FOR INVESTIGATIONAL USE IN PATIENTS MUST FIRST APPLY FOR A 'NOTICE OF CLAIMED INVESTIGATIONAL EXEMPTION FOR A NEW DRUG (IND)' TO THE BUREAU OF BIOLOGICS, FOOD AND DRUG ADMIN. FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THIS PROCEDURE MAY BE OBTAINED FROM:

DR. JOSEPH O'MALLEY OR
DR. BRUCE S. WRIGHT
BUREAU OF BIOLOGICS, FDA
8800 ROCKVILLE PIKE
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014 TELEPHONE: (301) 496-4343

THERE IS A RELATED MATERIAL KNOWN AS 'BCG', THAT IS PRESENTLY BEING STUDIED IN THIS COUNTRY BY A LARGE NUMBER OF MEDICAL SCIENTISTS IN VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS. THESE INCLUDE THE NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE, THE MEMORIAL SLOAN-UNCLASSIFIED

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KETTERING CANCER CENTER IN NEW YORK CITY, THE M.D. ANDERSON HOSPITAL AND TUMOR INSTITUTE IN HOUSTON, TEXAS, AND MANY OTHER LEADING UNIVERSITIES AND MEDICAL CENTERS. BCG CONSISTS OF LIVE TUBERCULOSIS ORGANISMS WHEREAS DR. MARUYAMA'S VACCINE CONSISTS OF AN EXTRACT OF SIMILAR BACTERIA. THE RESULTS WITH BCG IN THE U.S. HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING BUT MORE LIMITED IN SCOPE AND NOT QUITE AS OPTIMISTIC AS THOSE REPORTED BY DR. MARUYAMA. ADDITIONAL

EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED TO EVALUATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF
BCG.

6. SINCE MANY OF THE CLAIMS FOR CANCER CURES THAT HAVE
BEEN MADE IN THE PAST UNFORTUNATELY HAVE OFTEN PROVED TO
BE GROSSLY EXAGGERATED, ONE MUST PROCEED WITH CAUTION.
NEVERTHELESS, NO POSSIBILITY WILL BE OVERLOOKED IN THE
CASE OF DR. MARUYAMA'S VACCINE IF THERE IS EVEN THE
SLIGHTEST CHANCE OF BENEFIT TO CANCER PATIENTS. KISSINGER

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